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Citizens' League of
British Columbia
Communism in British
Columbia

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COMMUNISM
in
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Is it just a "Red Bogy," or is there a real menace to the peace and prosperity of our country and our homes?

The truth about the recent series of strikes and demonstrations.

Price 5 Cents

Issued by the Citizens' League of British Columbia

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PREFACE

The object of this little pamphlet is to explain to the citizens of Vancouver and British Columbia the real nature of the series of strikes and disturbances to which they have been subjected in recent weeks. We ask you to study it carefully.

By authentic quotations from original Communist Party documents it will be made obvious:

1. That the present series of strikes and demonstrations in British Columbia is under Communist leadership.

2. That the ultimate objective of the Communists is an armed uprising for the overthrow of the state, and for the establishment of "*Soviet Canada*" under a Red Dictatorship.

3. That strikes are instigated, not to improve the lot of the workers, but for the purpose of bringing about violent conflict with the officers of the law, and generally to break down law and order.

4. That trade unionists and other workers are being shamelessly exploited, lured into giving up their jobs, incited into unlawful demonstrations and riots, with utter disregard for the welfare of the workers and their families, solely for the purpose of increasing discord and strife in the community.

The greatest care has been exercised to prove every assertion by direct quotations from authentic Communist pamphlets, reports, speeches and other documents.

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COMMUNISM
in
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Shakespeare wrote: "The play is the thing."

In Communist ideology: "The STRIKE is the thing."

"*We can issue no guarantee for the winning of every strike struggle,*" scoffed Jim Warner in the 1934 Organization Report which he presented last December to the Central Committee, Communist Party of Canada.

> "*But,*" he continued, "*considered and prepared strike struggles, EVEN WHEN THEY TERMINATE IN DEFEAT, help us to extend our movement.*"

This, of course, is not the language used by Communist organizers, leaders and agents when inciting the trade unionists of Vancouver and British Columbia to "down tools." Such frank admissions are made only as "one Communist to another."

The Communist strike organizer is like the prize fight manager who, from the safety of his corner *OUTSIDE* the ring, admonishes his bruised and bloody principal: "Go on in and fight; he can't hurt US!"

WHAT STRIKES ARE FOR

Tim Buck, the recognized leader of the Communists of Canada, who (it will be remembered) honored British Columbia with a significant visit just before the recent epidemic of strikes and demonstrations broke out, explained the real purpose of the strikes instigated by Communist agents:

> "*Once we have mastered the political strike,*" wrote Buck in the report which he presented to the Party on his return from Moscow in January, 1930, "*the general strike is but a step. AND THE GENERAL STRIKE DURING A POLITICAL CRISIS IS THE GATEWAY TO REVOLUTION.*"
>
> "*The political line of our Party is to utilize this tendency of radicalization by adopting a policy of developing demands and initiating movements in different industries. . . . It is necessary to develop demands in advance rather than wait for sporadic outbreaks. . . . The political value of these strikes tends to be less unless we can prepare them in certain industries.*

"The result is we have adopted a policy of developing demands in many industries and on this basis sharpening relations and developing strike movements.

"The multitude of little streams of radical activity which previously spent themselves in scattered opposition are BEING DRAWN INTO THE BROAD CHANNEL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT."

SOVIET CANADA IS THE GOAL

When Tim Buck and his fellow-Communists speak of *"Revolution"* they mean the real thing; no namby-pamby change by democratic, evolutionary means. This is evidenced by the cold-blooded declaration in the *"Statutes and Theses"* of the Communist International.

Buck testified at his own trial that these *"Statutes"* (statute means law) are *"binding"* on the Communists of Canada.

"The Communist International makes its aim to put up an armed uprising for the overthrow of the state," says the *"Statutes and Theses"* of the Communist International.

M. Bucharin, internationally famous Communist leader, addressing the Fourth Congress of the Communist International at Moscow, made the point clear to delegates from all parts of the world there assembled when he said:

"Revolution means an historic event when one part of the population imposes its will upon the other part by means of BAYONETS, GUNS AND RIFLES."

Coming closer home, J. Warren, leading Communist propaganda functionary, appears as signatory of the preface to a pamphlet published in Montreal in December, 1934, under the title: *"What the Communist Party Stands For."* Warren's preface concludes with these words:

"Join the Communist Party unit in your shop or territory. Organize a Communist nucleus in your shop or neighborhood. Organize a Communist fraction in your union or organization. JOIN THE ARMY OF REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS FOR SOVIET CANADA!"

The foregoing authentic documents and statements from their own mouths prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Communists seek to establish

SOVIET CANADA through a
SERIES OF STRIKES leading to a
GENERAL STRIKE culminating in an
ARMED REVOLT.

COLD COMFORT FOR THE WORKERS

This being so, is it any wonder that Communist Organizer Jim Warner in his 1934 annual report candidly tells his fellow Communists of the Central Committee:

> *"We can issue no guarantee for the WINNING of every strike struggle. . . . Strike struggles, even when they terminate in defeat, help US to extend OUR movement. . ."*

Was ever a more cynical confession put into words?

What cold comfort this must be for the unfortunate Vancouver longshoremen, the seamen of the Union Steamship Company, and the members of the other unions who have sacrificed their jobs and their livelihoods at the instigation of Communist agents!

What an encouragement it must be to the members of British Columbia's legitimate trade unions who are now being asked to join in a general strike, ostensibly to support the waterfront workers!

PRACTISING FOR REBELLION

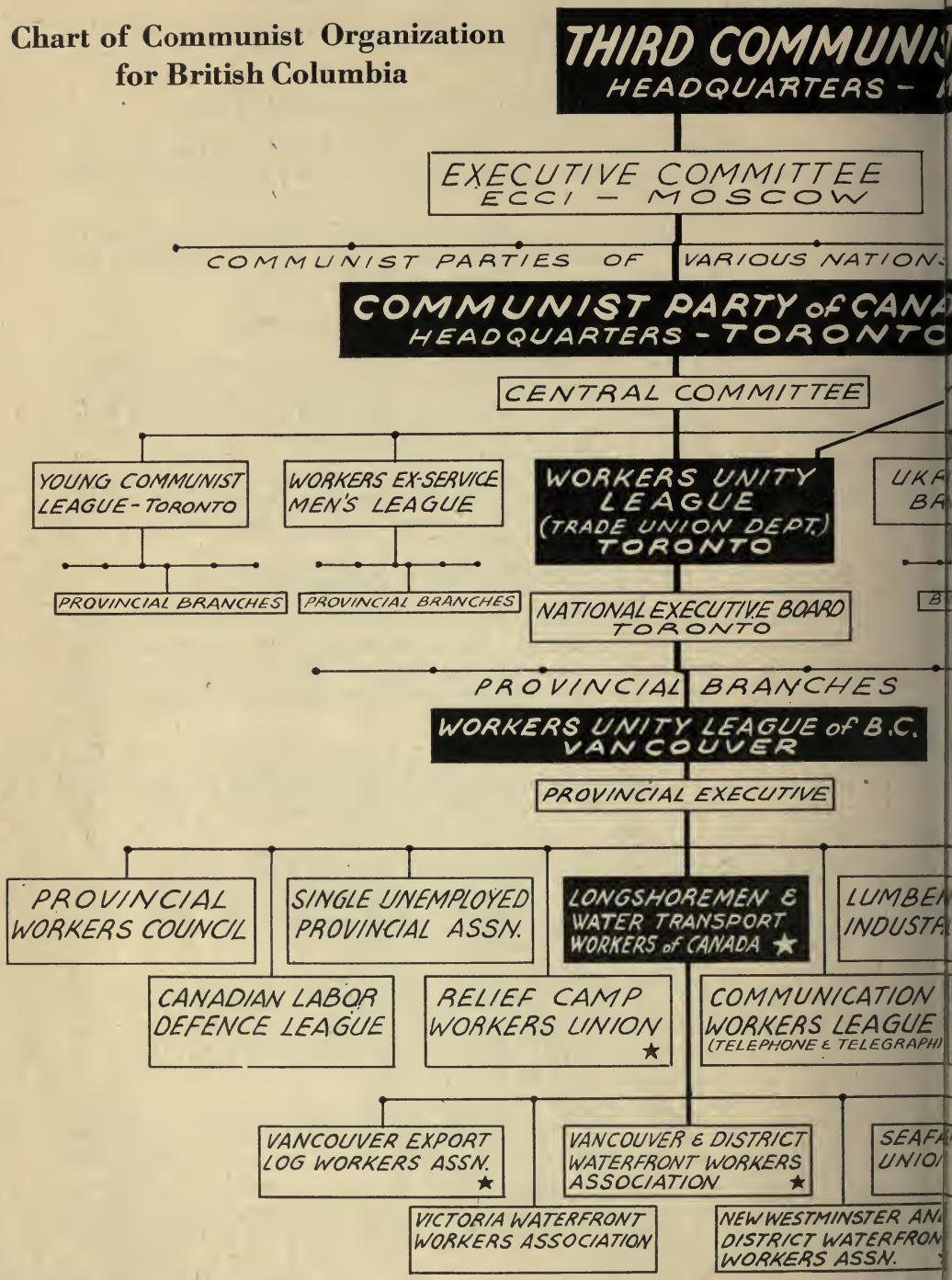
The average sane, sober-minded Canadian citizen will realize, of course, that the Communists in this country have not the numbers or strength to achieve a successful revolution. The Communists themselves know this, but their present activities are not without significance nevertheless.

They are now merely training and practising the art of revolution. The striking workers are being taught the art of combating the authorities in the hope that on a favorable day their experience may be put to more effective use.

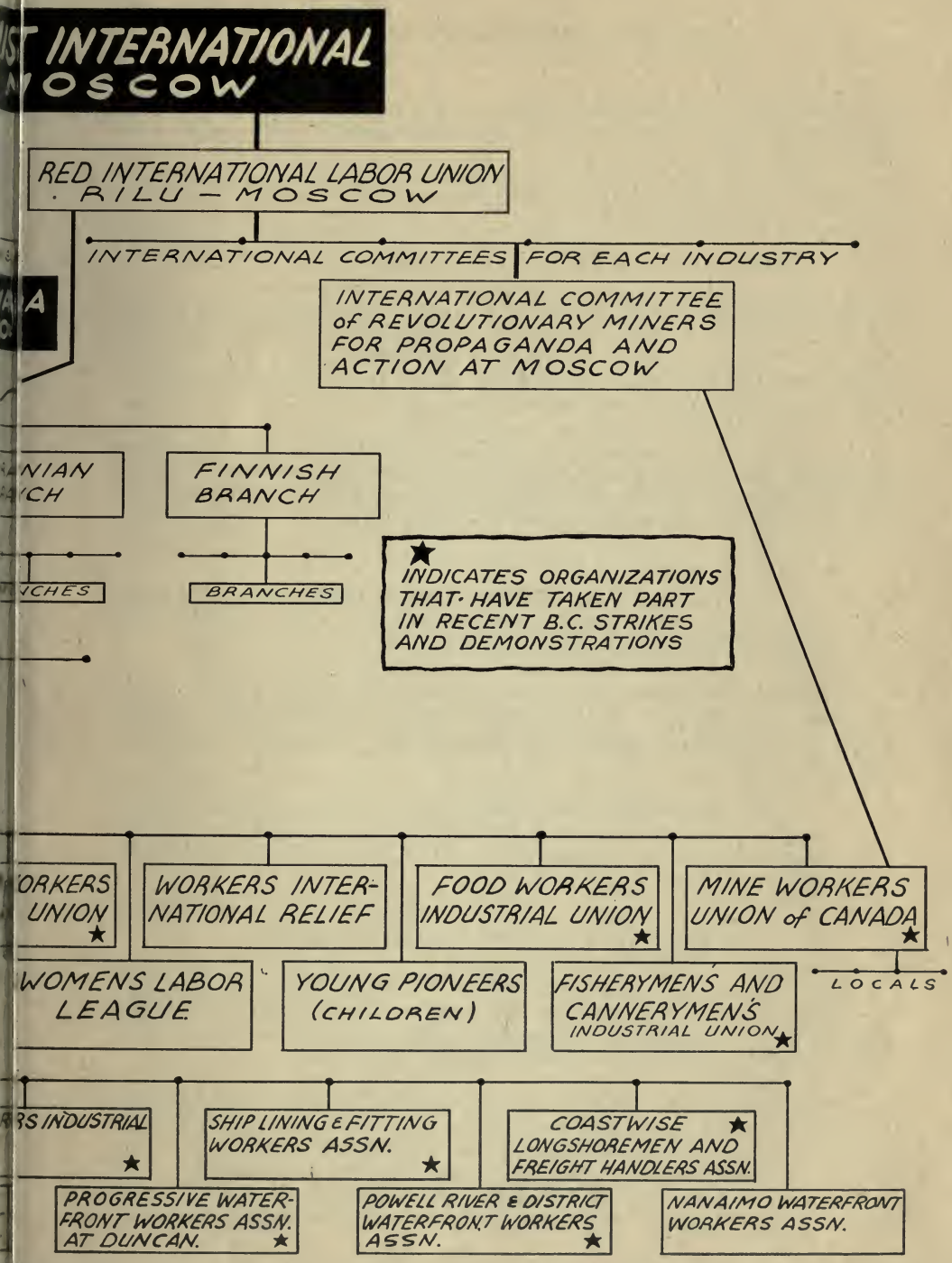
The "*Statutes and Theses*" lay down the rules for the Communist Parties of countries where (from their standpoint) the revolutionary struggle is in its "*elementary phase.*" Here are the exact instructions, quoted directly from the Communist Statutes:

> *"The elementary means of the struggle is, first of all, the method of MASS DEMONSTRATION . . . under the direction of the united, disciplined, centralized Communist Party . . . growing EVER MORE ACUTE and LOGICALLY LEADING to an uprising against the Government. . .*
>
> *"The Communist Party should always strive (a) to get the masses used to ACTIVE MANOEUVRING, (b) to equip them with new methods CALCULATED TO LEAD TO AN OPEN CONFLICT, (c) to deepen and widen class conflicts, (d) to combine them by unity of goal and practical activity, and IN THIS WAY SHATTER ALL RESISTANCE ON THE ROAD TO ITS DICTATORSHIP."*

Chart of Communist Organization for British Columbia



Readers who bear in mind that the Communist Party is organized on a basis of strict centralizatio will be able to follow in the above chart how the orders and programme of



d discipline, every member of the Communist Party being pledged to obey the orders of the Party, Red International have been and are being carried out in British Columbia.

Could any language more aptly describe the activities that have been carried on under our very eyes right here in Vancouver and Western Canada?

The Communists of Canada have learned their lesson well.

RED EXPLOITATION OF LABOR EXPOSED

It is this cold-blooded avowal of the use of the "strike" as a means of instructing the workers in the art of "*conflict*" with the authorities that puts the brand of insincerity and exploitation upon the series of strike actions into which Communist agents have incited Vancouver and British Columbia workmen to plunge.

It is this which explains the off-hand indifference of Communist Organizer Jim Warner to the side issue of whether the strikers WIN or not. The bait of "better pay" and improved working conditions is just that—bait to lure the workers into the strike trap.

As Tim Buck said:

> *"It is necessary to DEVELOP DEMANDS IN ADVANCE. . . . The political value of strikes tends to be less UNLESS WE OURSELVES PREPARE THEM. . ."*

Tim Buck emphasizes the "*political value*" of strikes. Jim Warner's "*Organization Report*" of 1934, from which quotations have already been cited, mentions another use to which the Communists put their strikes:

> *"The recruiting of new members out of the struggles we lead and organize is the MAIN FIELD for building the Party. This does not mean that strikes are the ONLY MEANS OF RECRUITING. . . ."*

COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP PROVEN

There can be few citizens of British Columbia who are not aware by this time that the leadership and inciting agency of the recent and present series of strikes are Communistic. However, the evidence of the fact is complete, if there be any doubters. Here it is.

Arthur Evans, following his interview with Prime Minister Bennett, addressed a meeting in an Ottawa theatre on June 23, when he said:

> *"I am a member of the Communist Party and I am proud of it. . . . I am the British Columbia organizer of the Workers' Unity League. . . . I organized the Relief Camp Workers' Union."*

Official Communist records seized at the time of the Tim Buck trial show that the Workers' Unity League is described in Communist records and correspondence as the *"Party Trade Union Department."* The League was formed in 1929, following receipt by the Communist Party of Canada of instructions from the Red International Labor Union at Moscow (trade union department of the Komintern). The RILU directed the Party in Canada to undertake

> *"A series of immediate practical measures designed to set in motion a broad revolutionary trade union movement UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP."*

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada set up the first provisional committee of the Workers' Unity League with Tom Ewen (one of Buck's fellow-accused) as National Secretary.

The purpose for which the Workers' Unity League was formed is revealed by a resolution adopted in far-away Moscow by the Executive Committee of the Communist International in 1930 and communicated to the Party in Canada. The pertinent paragraph of the Moscow decision, as filed in evidence at the Buck trial was:

> *"The main tasks of the Communist Party of Canada are the organization and leadership of the economic struggles, the BUILDING OF REVOLUTIONARY TRADE UNIONS, and the consolidation and extension of the Workers' Unity League into a mass movement embodying the revolutionary unions and revolutionary trade union opposition."*

Another sentence from this same resolution of the ECCI at Moscow exemplifies the tremendous importance attached to the Workers' Unity League by the organizers of revolution. It says:

> *"All members of the Party must become members of the WUL."*

This is the League of which Arthur Evans boasts that he is the British Columbia organizer.

Officers of the Relief Camp Workers' Union, testifying before the Macdonald Commission, stated that their Union is an *"affiliate"* of the Workers' Unity League.

OTHER RED STRIKE ACTIONS

Among other unions that are *"affiliates"* of the Workers' Unity League are:

THE LUMBER WORKERS' INDUSTRIAL UNION, which tied up the British Columbia logging industry for three months last year at a time when British Columbia lumber was being competed against strenuously in the British market by lumber from Soviet Russia.

THE MINE WORKERS' UNION OF CANADA, which

(a) closed down the Corbin mine, permanently depriving 600 people, the most highly paid coal miners on the continent, of their livelihood;

(b) precipitated a serious situation at Anyox two years ago;

(c) through its organizers and agents struck a blow at the thriving Bridge River gold camp and still threatens to tie up that whole camp again on the pretext of forcing two or three small, struggling companies in the development stage to pay the same high wages as the big dividend-paying concerns.

THE FOODWORKERS' INDUSTRIAL UNION, which has conducted a series of small strikes in Vancouver restaurants and bakeries.

THE FISHERMEN AND CANNERYMEN'S INDUSTRIAL UNION, whose 50 odd members assumed to call out 600 salmon fishermen in violation of their agreement, and whose picket boats intimidated and bullied the fishermen on the Gulf of Georgia for weeks this spring.

THE LONGSHOREMEN AND WATER TRANSPORT WORKERS OF CANADA, a shadowy federating unit that brings under Communist direction the nine groups of waterfront workers and seamen now on strike at the various ports of British Columbia.

It will be noted that the Workers' Unity League has been behind every one of the strikes that has occurred in British Columbia in the past two years.

BETRAYAL OF WORKERS

Three common characteristics of these strikes illustrate the sinister, betraying tactics of the Communists who "*can issue no guarantee for the winning of every strike.*"

1. The strikes were called in a time of unemployment.

Legitimate trade unions whose only interest is the welfare of their members never call a strike in a time of acute unemployment, for the obvious reason that there are too many idle men available to take over their abandoned jobs.

2. Several of the strikes were called in violation of agreements between the striking unions and their employers. Among these were: Corbin, Vancouver Waterfront Workers, Union Steamship Company employees, the fishermen, and others.

Legitimate trade unions do not strike in violation of their contracts, because their main object and purpose for existence is to obtain better

and better agreements for their members. The highly prized right of "*collective bargaining*" was won by organized labor after a century of effort. Labor has consistently sought to conserve that right by *KEEPING THE BARGAIN*. Intelligent labor understands that the only way to obtain agreements is to keep them. Violation of agreements is rigorously opposed in legitimate trade union circles because it discredits and destroys trade unionism.

> 3. **Most of the strikes were called with little or no notice.** At Corbin, the miners struck on 10 minutes' notice. At Bridge River, they gave 15 minutes' notice. At Powell River, the few who struck walked off the job BEFORE they even notified the employers that they had demands to make. Vancouver longshoremen quit in the middle of the working day. And so on.

Legitimate trade unions do not strike except as a last resort, after every resource of negotiation has failed. Their reasons are sound, intelligent reasons.

Strikes involve loss of pay and hardship for union members and their families.

Strikes deplete union funds.

Strikes impair the success and prosperity of the industry which provides the union members with their livelihood.

Strikes often involve loss by the workers of seniority and pension rights acquired through years of service.

Intelligent union leaders whose object is to improve the lot of their union members do not run the risk of these losses, which fall directly on the workers, if the desired results can be achieved in any other way, viz., without striking.

BREEDING HATRED

The Communist leaders of the Workers' Unity League have induced their affiliated unions to depart from all these sane, sensible rules that guide the conduct of the experienced, legitimate trade unions.

Would they counsel strike action in a time of unemployment if they cared about the risk of the men losing their jobs?

Would they counsel breaking agreements as the means of getting better agreements?

Would they strike without notice or previous negotiation if the obtaining of better employment conditions were the real purpose in mind?

No. The only logic that makes sense of this otherwise insane and improvident leadership of labor is the Communist logic which makes the strike itself more important than the remedying of the ostensible grievance advanced as the occasion for the strike.

THE STRIKE IS THE THING—in Communist logic.

Only in the secret counsels of the Revolutionary Party, which sees in strikes and strifes a means of breeding hatred and class conflicts, can you find the explanations of this callous betrayal of the interests of the working men.

The explanation has already been quoted in these pages, in the utterances of Buck and Warner, in the Statutes of the Komintern, and in the instructions of the ECCI to the Communist Party of Canada. Read them again.

How many thousands of workers must sacrifice their jobs, how many must sustain broken heads in senseless rows with officers of the law, how many must go to jail—before the working men of Vancouver and British Columbia learn to recognize the scandalously unscrupulous hand that offers to help, but seeks only to betray?

CITIZENS *of* BRITISH COLUMBIA

Join the Citizens' League. An application form is here inserted for your convenience.

I hereby apply for membership in the Citizens' League of British Columbia.

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Street Address.....

P.O......

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